

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-20 and 22-46 are in the application. Claims 1, 33-36 and 43 have been amended. No new matter is added. Claims 19, 20, 22-32 and 46 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-18, 33-36 and 43-45 are rejected under 35 USC 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 43 have been amended to recite that some of the steps are performed on a gaming machine and some of the steps are performed on the player tracking server or the gaming machine in the player tracking system or gaming environment. The account card or account information is received on a gaming machine. See page 13, lines 3-10. The player tracking account is created (Page 16, lines 16-18) from the player information by sending it to the player tracking server (Page 7, lines 11-18) or the gaming machine, with its associated player tracking unit, that may be configured to process the information into a tracking account (Page 11, lines 10-24).

Claims 33-36 have been amended to correct a typographical error. They now properly are described as system claims depending from independent claim 19 directed to a system.

Accordingly, it is submitted that all of the rejected claims are now either not directed to a method or directed to a method in which at least one of the steps is performed on a particular apparatus. None of the rejected method claims, as amended, can be completely performed within the human mind. Therefore, the method claims comply with 35 USC 101 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that this application be passed to issue.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this amendment is to be charged to Deposit

Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P070). Should the examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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